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The Emily Staffbox

Edited by Kristin Atwood



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Last month's issue was supposed to be the last Emily of the year, so why are we doing another one?

The answer is relatively simple. Both *The Emily* and *Ain't I A Woman* are produced by the same editorial staff and collective group. This March issue was supposed to be an *Ain't I A Woman*. However, we recieved no submissions that dealt with race, gender, and colonization issues, and thus I felt there was no point in trying to put together an *Ain't I A Woman*.

In fact, we recieved barely any submissions at all. You may notice that this Emily is only eight pages long - eight wonderful pages, but still, only eight. This is because we recieved very few submissions for publication.

At first I thought it was simply because people were busy with school work, etc, and had no time to write. Then I talked to the few people who did come to the collective meetings, who did show up for a few hours today to ask if they could help, who did write for the paper. They are just as busy as I am, just as busy as every-

one else, and yet they still have time to write! So it must be something else...

I have often felt, myself, that there was very little I could contribute to the feminist struggle. I felt that other, more vocal, people were saying it well enough. This freed me from responsibiliity, or so I thought. Someone else had already said what I believed, and said it far better than I could have, so why should I spend my time saying it, too?

Unfortunately, if we all take on this attitude, the following scenario results: no one says anything, no one learns anything, and nothing really changes. It's important to use our voices and take advantage of opportunities like the Emily and *Ain't I A Woman*. If someone else has already said it, then you saying it again will add emphasis to the point, and give support to the other women.

If you hold an opinion, and you truly believe in it, why be afraid to write it down, make it concrete, make it real? Why back away from the issue when it comes to writing it down? You have the right to

freedom of thought, opinion, and speech. This extends to what you write. So why are so few people exercising that right in a way that will reach countless others, and help them learn?

That is what I believe the Emily and *Ain't I A Woman* are for. They are a space created for women to discuss issues which concern them, and to educate eachother about what is going on in this world. No one seems to want to do this, and it saddens me.

This year is over, but the next one will be around sooner than you think! I urge everyone to think about what they believe in, and please, next year, consider the Emily as a place to voice your thoughts.

The Emily Report Card

What sort of topics would you like the Emily to cover?

Do you think there should be more poetry and fiction pages?

Would you like to see regular columns printed in the Emily?

Do you think "Ain't I A Woman?", our paper for race, gender, and colonization issues, should be printed more often?

Additional comments:

Please take some time to fill this out, detach it, and return it to The Women's Centre Emily Submissions Box. Your comments are most helpful and we appreciate your suggestions. Help us make the Emily better for next year!

Cover art by Laurel Terlesky,
a local visual artist currently
studying at UVic.



Emily Summer Reading List

We Recommend. . .

Fiction:

Memory Board Jane Rule
Ana Historic Daphne Marlatt
Bride Price Buci Emetcheta
Dead Girl in a Lace Dress Jeanne Hyvard
The Woman Warrior Maxine Hong Kingston
In Search of April Raintree Beatrice Culleton
Les Guerilleres Monique Wittig
He, She, and It Marge Piercy
Gone To Soldiers " "
Three Ply Yarn Cacia March
Ravensong Lee Maracle
Beloved Toni Morrison
Jazz " "
Sula " "
Obasan Joy Kogawa
The Concubine's Children Denise Chong
Daughters of Copper Woman Anne Cameron
Dreamspeaker " "
Dzellarhous " "
Orlando Virginia Woolf
Bananas, Beaches, and Bases Cynthia Enloe
The Handmaid's Tale Margaret Atwood
The Robber Bride " "
Possesseing The Secret of Joy Alice Walker
The Color Purple " "
The Fire - Dwellers Margaret Laurence
The Store Angel " "
The Stone Diaries Carol Shields
The Shipping News E. Annie Proulx
Their Eyes Were Watching Nora Zeale Houston
Oranges are not the Only Fruit Jeanette Winterson
The Sculptress Minett Walters
The Ice Horse " "
Remember Me Irene Jan Burke
The Unmaking Carol Birch
The Women of Brewster Place Gloria Nailer
The Bone People Keri Hume
Faces In The Water Janet Frame
Bastard Out Of Carolina Dorothy Allison
Angels and Insects A.S. Byatt
Possession " "

The Body:

Blessings of the Blood Celu Amberston
Talk Dirty to Me: an intimate philosophy of sex Sallie Tisdale
Minding the Body: women writers on body and soul ed. Patricia Foster

Erotica:

Herotica 4 ed.Marcy Sheiner
A Spy in the House of Love Anais Nin

Eco - feminism:

Earth Follies Joni Seager

Short Stories:

Wilderness Tips Margaret Atwood
Something I've Been Meaning to Tell You Alice Munro
The Penguin Book of Lesbian Short Stories ed. Margaret Reynolds
Women on Women 3: A new anthology of American Lesbian Fiction
ed.Joan Nestle and Naomi Holoch

Poetry:

Dream on Chrystos
The Garden Going on Without Us Lorna Crozier
The Vision Tree: Selected Poems Phyllis Webb
Evening Dance of the Grey Files P.K.Page

Plays:

The Other Side of the Dark: 4 plays Judith Thompson

As the days grow lighter, I have begun to dream of afternoons unfettered by articles and essays. I long for days lying in cool grass, reading, and hours of daydreaming out car windows en route to somewhere new and exciting. Being both a lover of books and a lover of music, I semi-selfishly compiled this list to expand my collection. It is always exciting for me to get together with a bunch of women and share ideas, authors, musicians. Often it leads me in new directions. So here is a very incomplete list of novels, poetry, music and the like to taste in the luscious days of summer. I would like to thank all the woman who contributed their ideas to this. In particular, I would like to thank Jenny Waelti-Walters, and Helen Rezanowich, for their fiction suggestions, and Laurie Sluchinski, and Maren Hancock, without them my list might have been a bit bland. Being an incomplete list, compiled of informal suggestions, I would encourage anyone with other suggestions to drop them off in the Emily submission box -- perhaps next year we will have a revised list? (I must abdicate all spelling mistakes to Joy, who is entirely irresponsible for everything.)



Mosaic

Wetlands Swamp Mama Johnson
Tidy... Kinnie Starr
Blue Joni Mitchell
Girl Talk Holly Cole Trio
To Bring You My Love PJ Harvey
Rid of Me " "
Campfire Michelle Shocked
200 More Miles Cowboy Junkies
Pale Sun Crescent Moon " "
Tigerlily Natalie Merchant
All Hail The Queen Queen Latifah
Fever In Fever Out Luscious Jackson
Life's Too Good Sugarcubes
Saltwater Djol 
After Hours Nina Simone
Exile in Guyville Liz Phair
1200 Curfews Indigo Girls
Easy Living Ella Fitzgerald
Live " "
Greatest Hits Billie Holiday
Hounds Of Love Kate Bush
The Dreaming " "
The Whole Story " "
New Beginning Tracey Chapman
Crossroads " "
Bricks are Heavy L7
In My Tribe 10,000 Maniacs
The Walking Jane Siberry
The Mask and the Mirror Loreena McKinnnet
Parallel Dreams " "
Elemental " "
Not So Soft Ani DiFranco
Out of Range " "
Dilate " "

For A Healthy Family

Sherry Macleod

A new multidisciplinary Family Health Centre is now operating at the west end of the Health Services Building at UVic. The School of Nursing at UVic is involved in a pioneering project in family health promotion through the establishment of the Family Health Centre. At the centre we follow a community model in serving families in the UVic community. We define "family" in a broad sense, to include roommates, significant others, parents and grandparents, etc. Family is more than an abstract heterosexual cultural idea which includes a man, a woman, and children living blissfully in a mortgaged house on a quiet neighborhood street. We seek to discover the meaning and the experience of family in the lives of the people we work with.

There can be no doubt that our daily experiences in the social world have a tremendous impact on our health. Women, especially women of colour, experience the oppression of racism and sexism daily. These experiences can damage their sense of self-efficacy. The World Health Organization defines health to be a "resource for everyday living." Using this definition we believe things such as nutrition, shelter, access to services, feelings of isolation, poverty, relocation to a new community, experiences of racism, sexism, homophobia, etc., all affect health.

A community development model is used to organize our actions. Activities and resources of the Family Health Centre are wide-ranging. We hope to develop programs in

response to what people in the UVic community tell us is important to them. As well, we actively support the self-organization of students to lobby for their needs.

Family is more than an abstract heterosexual cultural ideal which includes a man, a woman, and children living blissfully

For information about how you can become involved at the Family Health Centre, please call Wilma at: 472-4062, or email us at: wsamwms@hsd.uvic.ca. Our hours of operation are Monday, Thursday, and Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., though we hope to extend our hours in the future.

Meat Out Day

Brenda Simmers

This March 20, over 1000 cities will be celebrating Meat Out Day. This continent-wide event is geared towards helping people make the shift to a less-violent, more wholesome diet. It was started in 1985, by a vegetarian society in the U.S., to try and raise awareness about the brutal conditions endured by factory farm animals.

For example, an average chicken's lifespan is six weeks, during which it is de-beaked, de-clawed, and pumped full of hormones. It is constantly fed antibiotics to heal the sores incurred from fighting with the ten other chickens it shares its tiny, dark cage with. It then ends its bleak life in your local supermarket.

In 1986, one year later, Meat-Out Day had spread from one to seventy cities. Each year it has continued to grow, gathering strength and support from organizations, celebrities, and individuals across the continent.

However, their approach was shifted in 1995, to focus on the power of the consumer. Meat-out day helps to dispel the propaganda that the meat industry puts out, and asks that people think of the ramifications of their eating habits.

Thousands of acres of rainforest are cleared every year to make pastureland for beef, which is then exported to developed countries. One re-

sult of this is that many small farmers, mostly women, lose their plots, often their main form of subsistence, to huge multinationals.

It is clear, when one begins to examine the impact that America's beef consumption has on other countries, that this madness can't continue. For example, if Indonesia were to consume beef at comparable levels as Americans, in three and half years, all of their 114 million hectares of rainforest would be cleared for pastureland.

It is not just for humanitarian or social reasons that Meat Out day is growing across the continent. More and more, the health risks of a diet reliant on meat are becoming known. Recently the American Cancer Society admitted that meat is a carcinogenic. A meat-reliant diet is also high in cholesterol, which accumulates around the heart and restricts its movement. Eventually, pieces of the cholesterol break off into the body. If a piece enters the brain, this results in a stroke. In 1995 alone, 75,000 British Columbians died from heart disease and strokes. I don't mean to imply that meat-eating is responsible for all of those deaths, but I would argue it played a big part in many of them.

On March 17, the Vancouver Island Vegetarian Association (VIVA) will be showing a film entitled Food Without

Fear that looks at the effect North Americans meat consumption has on developing countries. It will be shown at the Central Branch of the Victoria Public Library in the multi-purpose room between twelve and one. Afterwards there will be a discussion.

On March 20, vigils, demonstrations, and feed-ins for the homeless will be taking place across the country. At press time, specific event information for Victoria was unavailable. However, VIVA can be reached at 386-2100. They will also have an information table in the SUB on March 20. I encourage you to join the hundreds of thousands who will be promoting awareness and exercising consumer power by saying NO to meat on March 20th, and everyday.

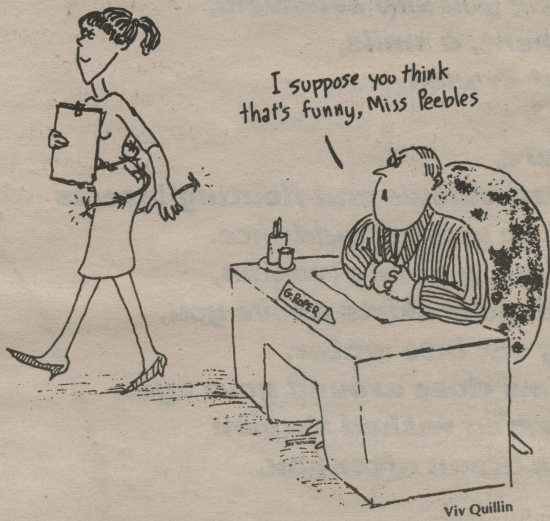
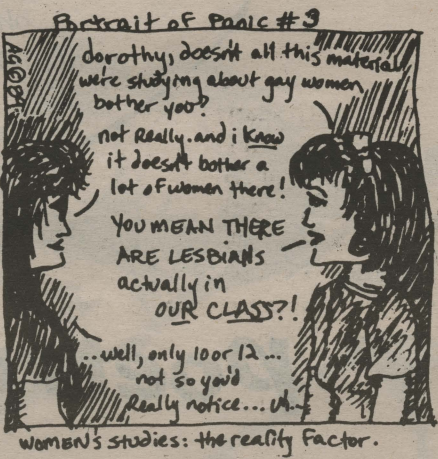
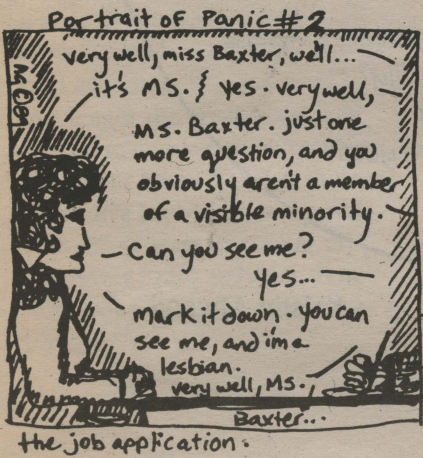


THE MEAT-EATER

Funnies!



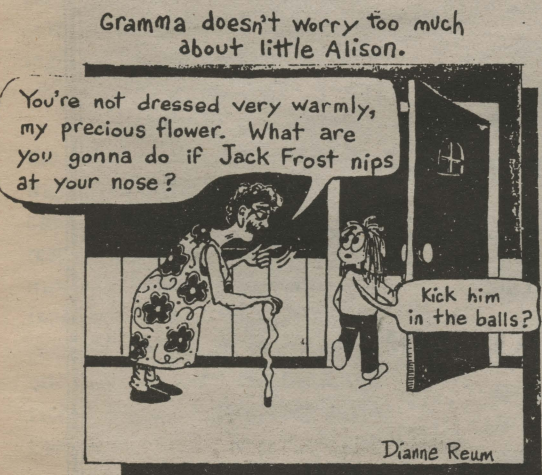
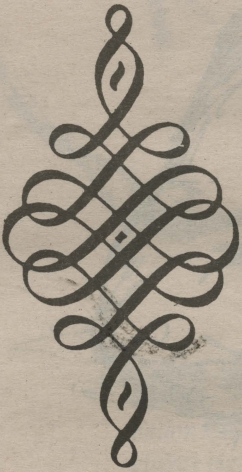
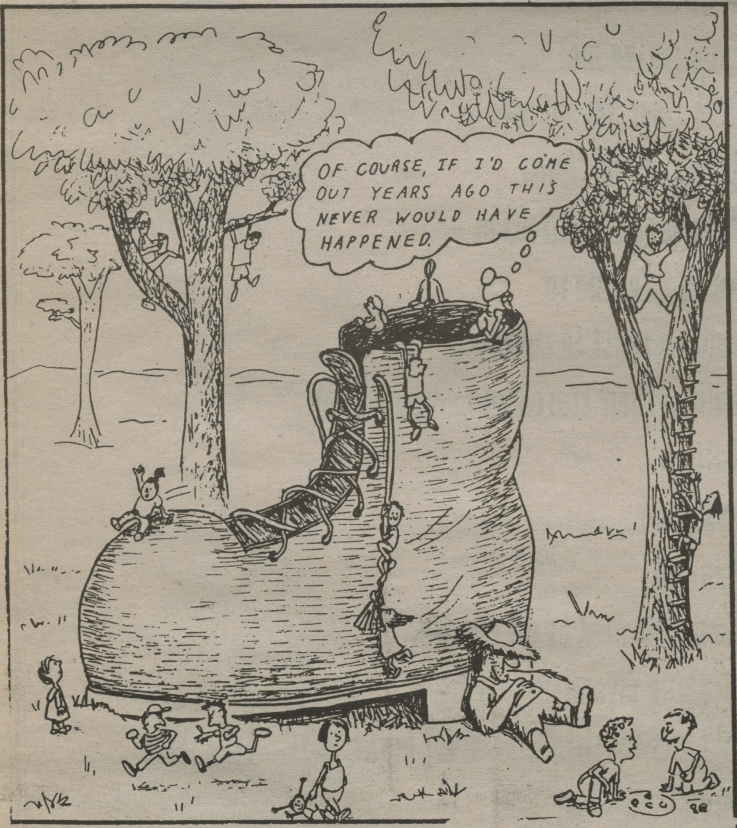
Marian Henley



Viv Quillin

STONEWALL RIOTS

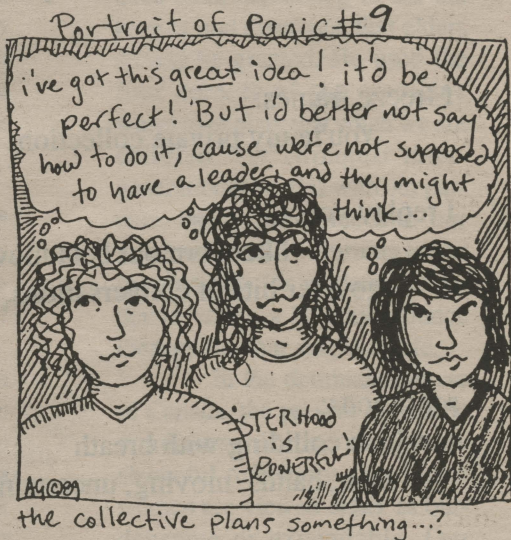
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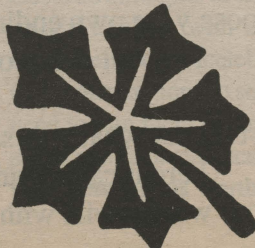
Dianne Reum



Marian Henley



the collective plans something...?



Poetry

Willow

**Swimming in the willow pool
near the border,
photographs of her laid out before me,
her hair dark and thick then, like her love.**

**Gone are the smells of licorice
and shampoo.
An easterly wind has blown in,
skeletons of Barbies and beer bottles across
the doorway, where you sat waiting for him,
where I sat waiting
for you.**

**I have come to know you through
shifts of color.
I hold clips of you,
all that I can hold.
Even still you slip evasively,
a comment, a smile,
the text erased.**

**It is here,
amongst willows and floating insects
I come to you for guidance.
You laugh, a young woman,
and pull your skirts above you,
wading out into water.
my palms close around your eyes,
half-formed wished thrown
into the ocean after you.**

Brenda Simmers



In my memory

I freeze frames.
You're my private collection.

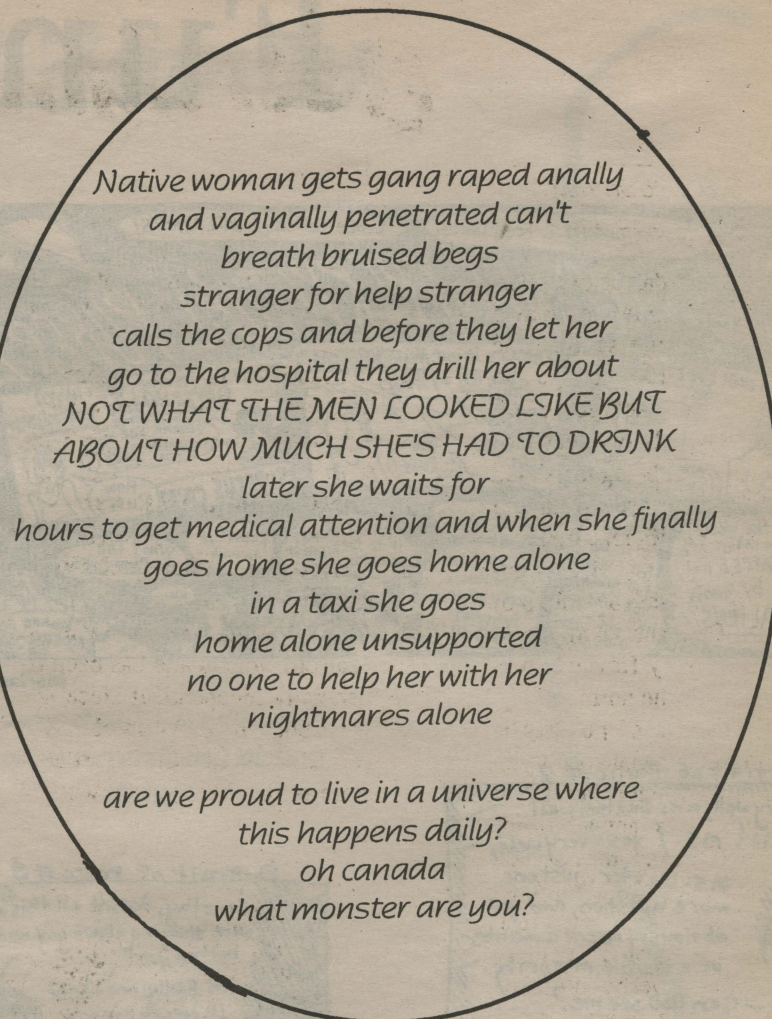
I replay you,
like worn out beta movies,
go over bits of conversations, fragments,

sensations:
sunshine colliding with breath
hair, hands, moving, uncertain.

Like choose your own ending books
I try out every option.

It doesn't matter what was said,
here it carries any conotation.
Your words twist with possibilities.

Brenda Simmers



Native woman gets gang raped anally
and vaginally penetrated can't
breath bruised begs
stranger for help stranger
calls the cops and before they let her
go to the hospital they drill her about
NOT WHAT THE MEN LOOKED LIKE BUT
ABOUT HOW MUCH SHE'S HAD TO DRINK
later she waits for
hours to get medical attention and when she finally
goes home she goes home alone
in a taxi she goes
home alone unsupported
no one to help her with her
nightmares alone

are we proud to live in a universe where
this happens daily?
oh canada
what monster are you?

Kristin Atwood

Poetry

I'm getting tired
Of these wasted men
Penetrating me
With their animal eyes
Saying stupid things
To engage my attention
Waiting for me to
smile to react to converse
Drilling their stares into my bent head
Waiting
Awkward
Wanting
Then disturbed by my silence
Speaking directly:
"Whatcha writin'?" "Night night, eh?" "Like this
song?"
and I say "Letters" "Yep" "It's alright"
and feel intimidated
Disgusted
Annoyed to the point of fury...
But I am young and small and scared
And out of place among these stronger shadows
So I walk away into the cold
Hating myself for my lack of courage
And he drinks his coffee
In the coffeeshop heat.

Kristin Atwood

Betraying our Elders

Michelle Sturley

In Canada, the two poorest groups of people are women and elders; putting senior (age 65+) women at the most severe economic disadvantage of all. There are basically two ways for women to escape being legislated to living in poverty: to have a husband with sufficient finances which creates a trap of dependency, or to have saved enough of their own finances to maintain their independency. However, neither situation is the norm.

The risk of poverty is greatest for senior women who are on their own; which is the fate of the majority of women who widowed due to the fact that women have longer life spans than men and tend to marry men older than themselves. About 50.6% of these women live in poverty, compared to 28.7% of men in similar circumstances (other statistics show a 70% poverty rate of women over 70 years).

"At the time when you should be having your golden years, they're not very golden, and it is mainly because the young people put us on a shelf and don't realize we do have things that we can contribute to the universe..."

Many senior women have spent most of their lives as homemakers. As such, their valuable contributions to society are not recognized; homemakers are treated as dependents and since they have never been paid for the lifetime of work that they do, they are not eligible to contribute to their own RRSPs or to participate in the Canada/Quebec Pension Plan. Even women who do have paid jobs end up with poor pensions since they are based on earnings, and women's wages are only 62% of men's earnings.

Monetary security is not the only way that society has betrayed our elders; it is rare that an elder receives a shimmer of the respect that they deserve. They are more likely to be humiliated and isolated, than to have younger peoples' respect for their experience and wisdom for the long, richly textured path they have travelled.

In my own recent search for connections to elders, I have been introduced to Anna Vi Brooks who has shared some of her story with me about her endurance on a difficult life path with ceaseless barriers of discrimination against her as a woman and coming into a second barrier against her as a senior woman.

Anna Vi is a single 78 year old woman and has been financially independent since she was about fifteen years old. She started to work in a department store as a bookkeeper, she worked

When I went University I was the only woman in my class and they made so much fun of me, and I just stuck in there. A woman does have to better than a man; you have to get better grades you have to work harder and everything to be on the same level with them. It was hard for me to get a job as an accountant because they wanted men and at that time they could just say "no we want a man." And I ran into that a lot and I also ran into age discrimination so what I did was just take ten years of my age...forty was kind of the mark where they thought you couldn't learn anything new...so I did that all the rest of my life actually right up until the last eight years. It makes

home and took care of the family so when they retire where are they going to get money? They're already retired as far as everyone else is concerned. There is a lot of discrimination in that respect.

You really do have to be a survivor. I thought I had my retirement pretty well taken care of but I didn't. About the time that I should have been retiring I started back to work again.

Things are getting a little bit scary not having any money and not having anyone to take care of me, and being ill. I don't feel as independent anymore because I can't drive first of all because my eyesight is gone; I'm legally blind...I can't see to do the accounting.

At the time when you should be having your golden years they're not very golden and it is mainly because the young people put us on a shelf and don't realize that we do have things that we can contribute to the universe...we need to change our own attitudes to recognize the wisdom of women as they age. My counsellor told me "Don't you know that you're a wonderful survivor? You're a matriarch and you have wisdom, you should be revered."

"Men make more money than women in almost every job, so consequently they pay more into the Canada pension plan, so when they retire they have more money."



seven days a week and made fifteen dollars a week to put herself through high school. Anna Vi married at seventeen, at age 20 she gave birth to twins who died as infants, shortly after, she divorced her first husband. Anna Vi remarried and after the birth of her daughter, she babysat other children until her daughter entered school, and then started taking courses to become an accountant rather than just a bookkeeper. Anna Vi has been an accountant for the about the past thirty eight years and has raised three children and lost a third child...

AV: In 1985 I lost one son and my mother and step father and then later on after this happened my husband divorced me...and I've been on my own ever since. I moved to Victoria in 1985 I sold my home and furniture when I got to Victoria I had two thousand dollars. I put an add in the paper to do bookkeeping and accounting and started my own business and I've been doing it ever since.

liars of us but not once did I feel bad about doing it. Age discrimination hasn't changed at all...if my clients right now knew that I was seventy eight years of age they would not come to me they would say I was too old even though I have all of that knowledge in my mind... age discrimination is still a there, I don't know what the young people are going to have to do about it...

M: From your own experience and your knowledge as an accountant, how does the current pension system discriminate against women?

AV: Men make more money than women in almost every job, so consequently they pay more into the Canada Pension plan so when they retire they have more money. I worked as many years as my husband worked and yet his pension plan comes to about \$600 or \$700 and mine is \$110. Unless we have a husband who dies and leaves money to us then we're left without. Also, women my age hardly ever worked they stayed at

Listening to Anna Vi weave her story and offer this message of reverence, I am reminded of a Cree elder explaining to me the respect and reverence that elders should be granted. He used the four corners of the medicine wheel to explain that when we are children, our strongest intergenerational bond is with our parents, but as we come into our youth we should be turning to our grandparents for guidance in order to create a healthy balance through the four stages of life.

In the dominant culture of Canada, the present economic conditions of our elders are shameful reflections that senior women are viewed either as burdensome or expendable. Our elders do have gifts of wisdom and insight to share with us and deserve respect and celebration for their contributions to society. We need to join them in demands for social and financial recognition of their tremendous worth.

The Department of Women's Studies is
hosting an event for the International
Day for the Elimination of Racism:

"Racism is a feminist issue. Racism is
every woman's issue."

Friday, March 21, 1997
12:30 - 2:30 pm in the
Sub multi-purpose room

Everyone is welcome!

L NEWS and the UVic Dept. of Women's Studies
B.C.'s Premiere Lesbian Magazine

presents

Wild Tongue II
a night of lesbian comedy



SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 8 PM

DAVID LAM THEATRE (UVic)
Pre-show Market 7:30
food by Moveable Feast

Tickets \$10.00 (Everywoman's Books)

Free Childcare — 598-6490

Announcements

Announcements

Queer Art Show

for Pride Week
July 1997

Any Queer can put
work in this show!
Go on, give it a try!

Express
Yourself:

About your life as a lesbian, gay,
two-spirited, bisexual, intersexed,
transgendered, queer of colour,
queer with a disability, pansexual.
The possibilities are infinite.

You Can
Do It:

with paint, ceramics, photography,
sculpture, fabric, language, collage,
printmaking, the possibilities are
infinite.

There is no jury,
no judging.

You get a full 18 inches

You get a space 18" x 18" on the wall, floor, ceiling,
or pedestal. You can fill it with one piece or several.

You hang it yourself

Registration
Forms At:

Everywoman's Books
G Spot Pop Culture
B.J.'s A.V.I.

Victoria Lesbian 595-7178
Art Collective 386-1550